

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 12042 211652Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY LISBON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT, UR, PO

SUBJECT: PCI COMMENT ON PRAVDA'S ARTICLE ON PORTUGAL

1. UNITA, AUGUST 20, PUBLISHES A LENGTHY BACKPAGE SUMMARY OF PRAVDA'S ARTICLE ON PORTUGAL CHARGING WESTERN INTERVENTION, ESPECIALLY BY "INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL DEMOCRACY," AND ACCUSING THE PSP OF "HOISTING THE BANNER OF ANTI-COMMUNISM."

UNITA COMMENTS:

A. PRAVDA IS RIGHT IN EMPHASIZING THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 ROME 12042 211652Z

INTERVENTION; THE SPEECHES OF FORD, KISSINGER AND BRANDT

"REPRESENT TRUE AND PROPER THREATS OF INTERVENTION."

B. PRAVDA PROPERLY REJECTS "CALUMNIATORY US AND WESTERN SPECULATION ON SOVIET INTERFERENCE." UNITA "SHARES PRAVDA'S DENUNCIATION AND CONCERN" FOR WESTERN INTRIGUE.

C. UNITA DOES NOT AGREE, HOWEVER, THAT THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS ARE THE "ONLY ONES" WHO HAVE MADE MISTAKES IN PORTUGAL. "AS WE HAVE REJECTED, AND CONTINUE TO REJECT, INTERPRETATIONS THAT ATTRIBUTE ALL THE BLAME TO THE PCP, WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT RIGHT NOR IN CONFORMITY WITH THE FACTS TO DEFINE AS 'PROVOCATIVE' THE POLICY OF THE PSP, AND TO CONSIDER THE LEADERS OF THE PSP THE ONLY ONES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PRESENT SITUATION..."

2. COMMENT: THOUGH DEFENDING SOARES FROM THE CHARGE OF BEING "SOLELY" RESPONSIBLE, UNITA GOES EVEN BEYOND ITS SUMMARY OF THE PRAVDA ARTICLE IN ATTRIBUTING THREATS OF INTERVENTION TO THE US. UNLIKE OTHERS WHO HAIL UNITA'S COMMENTS AS NEW EVIDENCE OF AUDACIOUS PCI DISAGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIET UNION, WE SEE IN IT PRIMARILY THE INTENT TO FURTHER ITS DEMOCRATIC IMAGE BEFORE ITALIAN AND INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION, PROVIDE A SOP TO ITALIAN SOCIALIST WHO DAILY VOUCH FOR THE PCI'S DEMOCRATIC CREDENTIALS, TRANQUILLIZE ITS RANK AND FILE WHICH STRONGLY SUPPORTS CUNHAL, AND AVOID TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE OPEN POLEMICS WITH THE CPSU. THIS IS A DIFFICULT BALANCING ACT. NEVERTHELESS, TO JUDGE FROM REPORTS WE'VE SEEN(E.G. REUTERS), AND PSI ORGAN AVANTI'S GRATEFUL COMMENTS, IT APPEARS TO BE SUCCEEDING.VOLPE

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